



Nathan Parker

Senior Pastor

2021 Sermon Series: "The Book of Isaiah: God's Heart to Rescue & Restore"

Who are you listening to in 2021? What voices speak the loudest in your life these days? We are inundated with "information" these days. Every day I open my email and I have four different daily blog posts waiting for me. I have news updates from various media outlets. There are daily devotionals, prayer guides, and scripture readings that I have signed up for in my inbox each morning. I also will find plenty of social media notifications there as well. How do I ingest all of this information in a way that will lead me into a life-giving way? What voices will point me towards flourishing for my family, my community, my church, and myself? Who should I listen to?

I think it's important for us all this year to focus on what matters most, to major on the majors (as Lil Cook often says). We need to learn to sift out the "noise" and listen to the voices that truly matter, the ones that will guide us in helping us truly thrive in this world and the next.

There is a man in the Hebrew Bible named Isaiah who was sent by God to deliver an urgent and timely message to God's people and to the world. Isaiah recorded his "vision" in an epic, sweeping series of writings that have been compiled to form what we know today as the "Book of Isaiah." In Isaiah 28:13, the prophet urges his readers, "Give ear, and hear my voice; give attention, and hear my speech." Isaiah has received a vision of truth, of reality as it actually is. It's as if he's pulled back the curtain that separates our physical world from the cosmic, spiritual order and now he can't wait to share with us what he's seen.

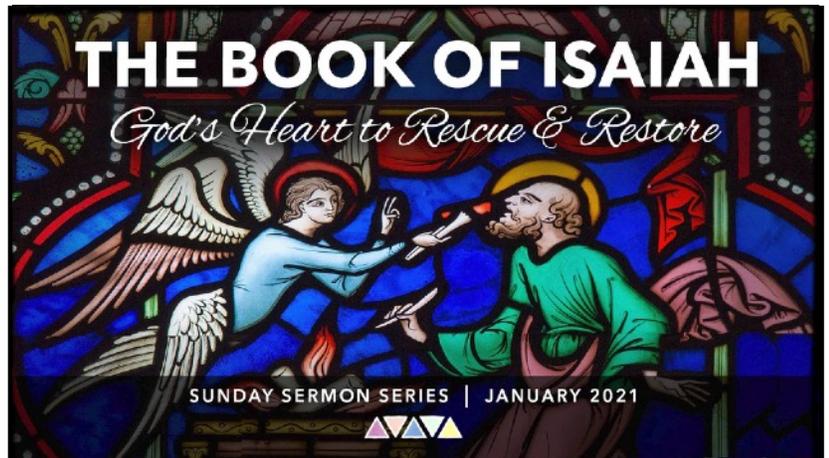
And what he's seen is amazing – a high and holy God who is far greater than we ever could have imagined. Isaiah sees enduring hope, even in the midst of unbelievable hardship, because this Almighty God is working out His good plan to rescue His people. It's good news! It's gospel – which is why Isaiah was often referred to by the early church fathers as "the fifth gospel."

But looking into God's good reality isn't for the faint of heart. It's going to mean honestly wrestling with the brokenness of our world. It will take dealing deeply with our own brokenness. This month we will dive into the first chapter of Isaiah where we will attempt to be truthful about who God is and who we are. If we are going to thrive and live compelling, impactful lives in this world and beyond, we must be up front about both of these things – God's greatness and our own frailty. My prayer is that we will learn to let go of false narratives about God as a shiny, benign idea and about ourselves as basically good, capable people. In doing so, we will learn to live more freely and abundantly, secure in God's overwhelming love and grace.

So let's listen to the voice of Isaiah (giving us the Word of the Lord) this year. Let's prayerfully engage with his songs of hope and rescue and redemption. Let's allow our hearts to open fully to the voice of a prophet calling us to "walk in the light of the Lord."

Grace and peace,

NATHAN



- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Jan 10 | The Vision of Isaiah (Isaiah 1:1) |
| Jan 17 | The Whole Head is Sick (Isaiah 1:2-9) |
| Jan 24 | Learn to do Good (Isaiah 1:10-20) |
| Jan 31 | Zion Shall be Redeemed by Justice (Isaiah 1:21-31) |

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

- Isaiah 2:2-5



GRIEFSHARE MINISTRY

GriefShare is a Christian-based grief support ministry begun a number of years ago by a couple who had lost 2 children to a genetic disease. They realized that they needed a support group who had also experienced the loss of a loved one so they could empathize with each others feelings and share their grief journey.

This year has been especially difficult for someone going through grief. Many times they were unable to be with their loved one at the time of death. This just compounds the grief. Sometimes the best thing that you can do is to be there for them without saying a word. Just listen to them without trying to give advice or "solve their problem." They need your support and love as they seek to adjust to their new circumstances.

I am grateful that Woodmont supports this very important ministry. Please pray for those of us as facilitators and all our folks who are dealing with grief as we begin plans to begin another group in this new year. If you have any questions or want more information, please reach out to Jan Bennett or one of the other facilitators.

Griefshare facilitators include:

Jan Bennett, LeEllen Phillips, Donna Lile, Elaine Bright, and Braden Maphet.

FRONTRUNNERS' JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Dorian Gray
- Betty Wayman
- Chris Phillips
- Tricia Scott
- Nancy Houge
- Mary Ann Pangle
- Barbara Costain
- Lou Warner
- Joan Simmons
- Marcia Wainman

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Continuing Concerns:

- Nell Salley
- Tom Wainman
- Steve Johnson
- Mary Elizabeth Pate

Sympathy to:

- Marjorie Ray whose brother-in-law passed away
- Lesa Roman whose father passed away

Prayers for Our World & Community to:

- Pray for the health and healing of our world due to the coronavirus.
- Pray for wisdom for leaders and churches on how to deal with the outbreak of the coronavirus and how to effectively minister to one another during this time.

DECEMBER GIVING

DURING THE WEEK OF:	12/6	12/13	12/20	12/27
Weekly Receipts	\$43,421	\$19,298	\$29,284	\$36,304
Year to Date Budget	\$929,000	\$952,750	\$1,013,500	\$1,074,250
Year to Date Receipts	\$810,559	\$829,857	\$859,141	\$895,445

Christmas Missions Offering Total: \$47,860

- Lottie Moon IMB: \$42,410.
- CBF World Mission: \$5,450

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!



Sarah Davis

OUR STAFF

Nathan Parker

Senior Pastor

nathanp@woodmontbaptist.com

Aaron Duncan

Minister of Music & Worship

aarond@woodmontbaptist.com

Evan Kunz

Minister of Students

evank@woodmontbaptist.com

Rachel Gregory

Minister of Preschool & Children

rachelg@woodmontbaptist.com

Andy Morris

Director of Communications

andym@woodmontbaptist.com

Windy Robbins, Weekday Preschool Director

windyr@woodmontbaptist.com

Ron Landis, Facility Director

ronl@woodmontbaptist.com

Lil Cook, Ministry Assistant / Senior Adults

lilc@woodmontbaptist.com

CONNECTING

General Information

Main Phone: 615.297.5303

WBIS (WBC info service): 615.298.3100

Weekday Preschool: 615.297.2810

Website: woodmontbaptist.com

Facebook: facebook.com/wbcnashville

Weekly eNews: To receive our eNews, sign up on our website or email Lil Cook.

Text Alerts: Text "wbctextalerts" to 781-728-9542 to receive emergency info from us about church closings due to inclement weather.

Woodmont's Live TV Broadcast

Sundays, 10:30am on MYTV30 (Comcast Channel 14)

Live streaming on Facebook and on our website! You can also view our past services online on our website.